

**U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology  
Membership Balance Plan**

- (1) **Name.** Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology (VCAT or Committee)
- (2) **Authority.** 15 U.S.C. 278
- (3) **Mission/Function.** The function of the VCAT is to review and make recommendations regarding general policy for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), its organization, its budget, and its programs, within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. In addition, the Committee shall provide an annual report, through the Director of NIST, to the Secretary of Commerce for submission to the Congress not later than 30 days after the submittal to Congress of the President's annual budget request in each year. Such report shall deal essentially, though not necessarily exclusively, with policy issues or matters which affect NIST, or with which the Committee in its official role as the private sector policy adviser of NIST is concerned. Each such report shall identify areas of program emphasis for NIST of potential importance to the long-term competitiveness of United States industry. Such report also shall comment on the programmatic planning document and updates thereto submitted to Congress by the Director. The Committee shall submit to the Secretary and the Congress such additional reports on specific policy matters as it deems appropriate.
- (4) **Points of View.** Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 278(a), the Committee shall consist of 15 members, at least 10 of whom shall be from U.S. industry. Members are selected solely on the basis of established records of distinguished service; provide representation of a cross-section of traditional and emerging United States industries; and are eminent in fields such as business, research, new product development, engineering, labor, education, management consulting, environment, and international relations. No employee of the Federal Government can serve as a member of the Committee. Members serve as Special Government Employees. Members serve at the discretion of the NIST Director.
- (5) **Other Balance Factors.** Members are drawn from industry and other communities having an interest in promoting U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness, such as, but not limited to, academia, state and local government bodies, and non-profit research institutions. Geographic location also is an important factor in achieving a regional balance of expertise across industrial sectors in the United States. NIST also strives to maintain a balance of members with areas of expertise aligned with national priorities. In addition, a balance of diversity of members from different races or cultures will help promote a variety of views.
- (6) **Candidate Identification Process.** NIST uses a nomination process to identify candidates for the VCAT. Nominations are requested through annual announcements in the Federal Register and through the NIST Director's solicitations to NIST senior leadership, current Committee members, professional societies, business associations, and other appropriate organizations and individuals. Candidates may be nominated by their peers or may self-nominate. NIST requests that the

nomination include a resume or biographical sketch for the individual which specifically identifies the expertise of the individual being nominated. Candidates are grouped by their area of expertise. Within each expertise group, a list of highly qualified candidates is developed and prioritized based upon a review of the candidates' qualifications by the Director of the NIST Program Coordination Office, the VCAT Executive Director, and, where appropriate, in consultation with subject matter experts at NIST. Qualifications considered include: scientific and technical expertise in selected areas, professional experience, and stature. From the list of highly qualified candidates, the NIST Director selects one or more candidates for further consideration to fill vacancies on the Committee in the areas of needed expertise. These candidates are contacted to ascertain their willingness and ability to serve if selected. The NIST Director makes the final decision for appointment to the VCAT.

VCAT members serve three year terms and may serve two consecutive terms. A member that has served two consecutive terms is ineligible to serve a third term for a period of one year following the expiration of the second term. Vacancies are filled as soon as highly qualified candidates in a needed area of expertise are identified and available to serve.

(7) **Subcommittee Balance.** NIST may establish subcommittees subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. (FACA), the FACA implementing regulations, and applicable Department of Commerce guidance. Subcommittee members shall be selected from the parent committee.

(8) **Other.** N/A.

(9) **Date Prepared/Updated.** November 8, 2013